

MARICOPA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTE BOOK

**INFORMAL SESSION
June 4, 2007**

The Board of Directors of Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, Arizona, convened in Informal Session at 10:00 a.m., June 4, 2007, in the Board of Supervisors' Conference Room, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Fulton Brock, Chairman, District 1; Andrew Kunasek, Vice Chairman, District 3; Don Stapley, District 2, Max W. Wilson, District 4, and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Liz Evans, Minutes Coordinator; David Smith, County Manager; Victoria Mangiapane, Deputy County Attorney. Votes of the Members will be recorded as follows: aye-no-absent-abstain.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Item: Presentation regarding the history of service in Litchfield Park and review possible alternatives to serving the area, including a White Tank Branch and Parks Department Visitors' Center. In addition, a report will be presented on plans for library service in Western Maricopa County.

Authorize staff to proceed with the White Tank partnership with the Parks Department. (6507035000) (ADM3200) (ADM2800)

Harry Courtright, Library District Director

Harry Courtright reminded the Board that during a meeting several weeks earlier, he had requested to return to the Board to discuss the possibility of building a Litchfield Park Branch Library, as well as a possible partnership between the Library District and the Parks and Recreation Department to co-locate a library in a Visitor's Center at White Tanks Regional Park. Mr. Courtright stated that he would be asking the Board to authorize the Library District to begin discussions with the Parks Department.

Mr. Courtright said that Director Wilson had asked him to provide a history of the Litchfield Park Branch Library. The building that currently houses the library is owned by the Litchfield Park Library Association, a private, non-profit organization. The land that the building sits on is owned by the City of Litchfield Park, and the Association has a 100-year lease on the land. The parking lot used by library is owned by a private business who allows library patrons to use it at no cost. Mr. Courtright reported that the building was constructed in 1978 with donated funds raised in the community, and the Library District has been leasing the building since 1979. The original lease specified that the Library District pay the cost of telephone, janitorial, maintenance, liability insurance and \$20,000 annually to the Association. The Association paid for the staff and operation of the library.

The City of Litchfield Park was incorporated in 1987, and the population, as of the 2005 census, was 4,528. Mr. Courtright said that the population falls within the Library District's plan to service communities with under 50,000 residents. In 1994, the Library District negotiated a new lease which provided that the District would pay all of the operational costs, including staff, purchasing books, utilities and janitorial services, and the Association pays for the maintenance of the building. The rental payments to the Association were phased out over a two-year period as the District assumed the additional costs.

The building was expanded to 6,700 square feet in 1997 with donated funds raised by the community, and the City of Litchfield Park currently donates \$5,000 per year to the Association for maintenance. The Library District has a direct cost of \$708,000 per year for the Litchfield Park Branch, but the lease and intergovernmental agreement with the City have expired. Mr. Courtright said that 75 percent of users of the facility come from outside Litchfield Park.

Mr. Courtright explained that the problem is that the Litchfield Park Branch Library is in an incorporated city, and the Library District has never built a building within a city or town. He said there have been instances where a library has been built on a County island and the city or town then annexed the

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property, but the District now has a plan in place to address those occurrences. The only buildings currently owned by the District are in unincorporated portions of the County.

Mr. Courtright then outlined the plan for the White Tank Partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. He said that the Library District would build the building with shell space for the Parks Department to build out its Visitor Center. The Parks Department would allow free use of the land and the Library District would allow free use of the space. Mr. Courtright said that the District felt that this partnership would allow some opportunities for some unique programs for patrons.

Mr. Courtright stated that the estimated cost to build the facility will be \$5,100,000 and the District will have those funds following the sale of the Campbell Branch. The District also anticipated receiving an additional \$750,000 collected from fees. The facility would be approximately 13 miles from the existing Litchfield Park branch library. The proposed design is to build the facility on stilts to allow for drainage, and the roof of the building would actually be landscaped so that the building would be camouflaged when looking down from above. Mr. Courtright said that the even though the location is somewhat remote for a library, the District was trying to be proactive for future growth because there were at least 15 master communities planned for the area east of the park and 12 west of the park.

Discussion ensued among the Board members regarding concerns of building a library within the White Tanks Park because of its remote location. The Board was also concerned that future annexations of unincorporated land surrounding the park by cities and towns could mean that the library was servicing residents of incorporated versus unincorporated Maricopa County land. The Board agreed to postpone a vote on this item for at least 60 days to explore alternatives.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Fulton Brock, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board